

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for communicating information comprising the steps of:
determining the ability of a first and second terminal to reproduce
information in a plurality of media formats;
5 producing a list of media formats which can be reproduced by the first and
second terminals;
establishing a first channel mode for the first terminal to communicate
information to the second terminal using the list of media formats, the performance
of the first terminal and the bandwidth of the first terminal's connection to the
10 second terminal;
establishing a second channel mode for the second terminal to communicate
information to the first terminal using the list of media formats, the performance of
the second terminal and the bandwidth of the second terminal's connection to the
first terminal; and
15 communicating between the first and second terminal in accordance with
their respective channel modes.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first channel mode is established
based upon one or more media which provide a user of the first terminal with a
greatest level of understanding of the information to be transmitted.
- 20 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the provision of the greatest level of
understanding of the information to be transmitted is determined by determining
the media or combination of media which has the largest entropy per second taking
into account the performance of the first terminal and the bandwidth of the first
terminal's connection to the second terminal.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more media which provide a user of the first terminal with a greatest level of understanding of the information to be transmitted is determined based upon user conditions.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the user conditions are determined using face finding and position tracking, whereby it can be determined whether a user is looking at a screen associated with a terminal.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more media which provide a user of the first terminal with a greatest level of understanding of the information to be transmitted is determined based upon user preferences.

10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the list of media formats includes a plurality of formats for each particular media.

8. An apparatus comprising:

means for determining the ability of a first and second terminal to reproduce information in a plurality of media formats;

15 means for producing a list of media formats which can be reproduced by the first and second terminals;

means for establishing a first channel mode for the first terminal to communicate information to the second terminal using the list of media formats, the performance of the first terminal and the bandwidth of the first terminal's connection to the second terminal;

20 means for establishing a second channel mode for the second terminal to communicate information to the first terminal using the list of media formats, the performance of the second terminal and the bandwidth of the second terminal's connection to the first terminal; and

means for communicating between the first and second terminal in accordance with their respective channel modes.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first channel mode is established based upon one or more media which provide a user of the first
5 terminal with a greatest level of understanding of the information to be transmitted.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the provision of the greatest level of understanding of the information to be transmitted is determined by determining the media or combination of media which has the largest entropy per second taking into account the performance of the first terminal and the bandwidth of the first
10 terminal's connection to the second terminal.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the one or more media which provide a user of the first terminal with a greatest level of understanding of the information to be transmitted is determined based upon user conditions.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the user conditions are
15 determined using face finding and position tracking, whereby it can be determined whether a user is looking at a screen associated with a terminal.

13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the one or more media which provide a user of the first terminal with a greatest level of understanding of the information to be transmitted is determined based upon user preferences.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the list of media formats includes
20 a plurality of formats for each particular media.